

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 - 11, and 33 - 35 are currently pending in the application. By the foregoing, claim 1 is amended and claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by the originally filed application and contains no new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1 - 10 and 33 - 35 were rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,935,034 to Campagnolo. The Action states

Campagnolo discloses a sprocket support member, 10, comprising at least one freewheel hub engagement portion having at least one tooth, 14, and at least one fastening portion, 12, presenting at least one hole, 16/17, wherein the fastening portion is axially displaced with respect to the engagement portion as shown in Figure 4, an axial projection, 18, and a weight saving cavity as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 1 as amended recites a sprocket support member for a bicycle sprocket assembly comprising at least one freewheel hub engagement portion having at least one tooth engagable with a splined surface of a bicycle freewheel hub and at least one fastening portion having at least one hole for the mounting of the sprocket support member wherein the fastening portion is defined within a first plane and the engagement portion is

defined in a second plane and the first plane is axially displaced with respect to the second plane and the planes are parallel to each other.

Claim 33 recites a sprocket support member for a bicycle sprocket assembly comprising an inner engagement portion having at least one tooth adapted for engagement with a spline of a bicycle freewheel hub, the inner engagement portion defining a first plane; and, an outer fastening portion having at least one position defined for the mounting the sprocket support member to a sprocket, the outer fastening portion defines a second plane that is immediately adjacent to and parallel with the first plane.

Claim 35 recites a sprocket support member for a bicycle sprocket assembly comprising an inner engagement portion having at least one tooth adapted for engagement with a spline of a bicycle freewheel hub, the inner engagement portion defining a first plane; and, an outer fastening portion having at least one position defined for the mounting the sprocket support member to a sprocket, the outer fastening portion defines a second plane that is immediately tangent to and parallel with the first plane.

The '034 reference is directed to a sprocket support member including a support member having a radially internal portion shaped to couple it with a freewheel device and a radially external fastener portion. In the '034 reference, two sprockets are mounted on the opposite portion of the fastener portion. A third sprocket can be mounted on the support member in addition to the first two sprockets through a plurality of spacer bushings. There is no teaching in '034 that

the fastening portion and is defined within a first plane and that the engagement portion is defined in a second plane and the planes are parallel to each other in separate axially spaced planes. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the '034 reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,102,821 to Nakamura. The Action states:

As set forth above, Campagnolo teaches substantially all that is claimed, but it is unclear what material the support is made of. Nakamura, however, discloses that aluminum (col. 1, line 40) is a typical material for a sprocket support. It would have been obvious to use aluminum for the sprocket support, as taught by Nakamura, since this is typical due to its light weight.

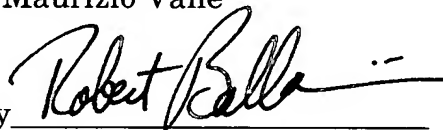
Further to the above remarks regarding '034, since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, claim 11 which depends therefrom is also believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the claims presented by this amendment are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that an interview would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1, 3 - 11 and 33 - 35, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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